

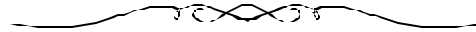
A Special Advisory of The State Mining & Geology Board

**THE STATE MINING &
GEOLOGY BOARD**
Sacramento, California

Special Advisory Number 2005-01

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Special Advisory on California Landslides and Debris Flow Hazards



The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) is issuing the following Special Advisory about the continuing possibility of severe and damaging landslides and debris flows occurring throughout California because of significantly above normal amounts of precipitation.

Much of the State's population is densely concentrated on geologically unstable terrain, especially along the Southern California Coastline that includes the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego. Many areas containing landslide hazards are well known to exist in these counties. The recent landslide that struck the community of La Conchita in Ventura County, killing ten people and destroying 13 homes and damaging 18 other structures, is one such landslide-prone area that continues to threaten life and property.

Portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles counties recently were subjected to devastating wildfires. Areas of potentially hazardous debris flows include localities that are adjacent to and downslope from these recent burn areas, especially in locations that are within ravines and canyons, and at the mouths of canyons.

Landslides and debris flows can begin without warning and move rapidly. Whereas debris flows may occur suddenly during or immediately following a period of heavy rainfall, landslides may occur many days or months later when hillsides become saturated and destabilized.

Individuals living on or below hillsides or in canyons should be especially alert for potential land failures. Hillsides and canyons that have demonstrated landslides or debris flows in the past are likely to experience them again.

Local authorities are strongly advised to closely monitor these areas of known geological instability and to be prepared to order evacuations. Individuals should maintain close communication with their local authorities and immediately report any signs of ground movement or failure.

Areas of known landslide hazards in California, and other information regarding landslides, may be obtained at the U. S. Geological Survey's National Landslide Information Center at: 1-800-654-4966 and at <http://landslides.usgs.gov> or from the California Geological Survey at 916-327-1850 and at www.conservation.ca.gov/CGS



Adopted: February 10, 2005

Allen M. Jones

Allen M. Jones, Chairman